

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 SIL-01 LAB-04 SY-05 MCT-01
ACDA-07 EB-07 /085 W
-----291903Z 023692 /44

P R 291751Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8441
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO
USEC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 9730

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: GENERAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: LETTER FROM ORIO
SAYS HE'S FINE: CARRILLO CASE CONTINUES: WHILE OPPOSITION SCORES ITS
HARMFUL EFFECTS: KEY MILITARY SHIFTS EXPECTED LABOR REFORM
BILL MOVES ALONG.

REF MADRID 9649

1. ORIO KIDNAPPING. FOLLOWING THE USUAL PATTERN (TELEPHONE
CALL TO A NEWSPAPER LOCATING THE MESSAGE IN A BAR),
THE PRESS DECEMBER 29 REPORTED A LETTER APPARENTLY IN
THE HANDWRITING OF KIDNAPPED COUNCIL OF STATE PRESIDENT
ORIO AND ADDRESSED TO HIS WIFE. THE LETTER, UNDATED BUT
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REFERRING TO THE PASSAGE OF CHRISTMAS, SAID HE REMAINED
FINE, REQUESTED CONFIRMATION BY RADIO OR TELEVISION OF ITS
RECEIPT, AND MENTIONED HE DID NOT LIKE TO SEE HIS LETTERS
PUBLISHED TEXTUALLY. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAST POINT,
TBLY PORTIONS WERE PUBLISHED. IN THE TELEPHONE CALL, THE
CALLER SAID NOTHING HAD CHANGED, AND CONSEQUENTLY

THERE WAS NO MESSAGE FROM THE KIDNAPPERS.

2. CARRILLO ARREST. THE APPEAL OF CARILLO AND THE OTHER ARRESTED COMMUNIST LEADERS WAS PASSED TO THE PROSECUTOR, WHO HAD 48 HOURS IN WHICH TO RESPOND. A PCE MEMBER TOLD AN OFFICIAL OF A WESTERN EUROPEAN EMBASSY TODAY THAT THEY EXPECTED CARRILLO TO BE RELEASED IN A WEEK. THE OPPOSITION COMMITTEE FOR NEGOTIATING WITH THE GOVERNMENT MET. WITH PCE LEADER JOSE SANDOVAL PRESENT AS AN OBSERVER SINCE SANCHEZ MONTERO, THE PCE PARTICIPANT, IS ALSO IN JAIL. FOLLOWING THE MEETING, A COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED CALLING THE CONTINUED ARREST OF CARRILLO "AND OTHERS" A SERIOUS OBSTACLE TO THE COMMITTEE WORK AND SCORING THE "SERIOUS HARM" CAUSED THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS BY THIS GOVERNMENT ACT. SANDOVAL TOLD THE PRESS THE MEETING AND DWELT ON THE ARREST ISSUES THAT HE HOPED THE SITUATION CREATED BY THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE ARRESTS WOULD BE RESOLVED SOON. AND THAT IF PCE REPRESENTATION IN THE NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE MEANT NEGOTIATIONS COULD NOT TAKE PLACE (AS HAS RECENTLY BEEN REPORTED), THE PCE WOULD WITHDRAW. THIS WOULD ELIMINATE, HOWEVER, HE SAID, "AN IMPORTANT SECTOR OF THE WORKING CLASSES OF THE COUNTRY", AND HE IMPLIED THAT PCE LEXIBILITY ON THIS POINT WAS TIED TO CARILLO'S RELEASE. IN A RELATED INCIDENT, AND ITALIAN DELEGATION HERE TO REQUEST CARRILLO RELEASE HAD ITS PRESS CONFERENCE HALTED BY POLICE MOMENTS AFTER IT BEGAN. THE DELEGATION HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN REBUFFED IN ITS EFFORTS TO MEET WITH GOS OFFICIALS.

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3. MILITARY SHIFTS. SHIFTS IN SOME FOUR KEY MILITARY POSITIONS, INCLUDING THAT OF HEAD OF THE KING'S MILITARY HOUSEHOLD AND THAT OF ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF. ARE EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED FOLLOWING THE CABINET MEETING SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 30. THE MOST MENTIONED NAME FOR THE HOUSEHOLD SLOT IS LTG. JOAQUIN VALENZUELA, CURRENTLY CAPTAIN GENERAL IN GRANADA AND FORMER TUTOR TO THE KING. THE ARMY POSITION IS REMOVED TO GO TO LTG. TOMAS DE LINIERS, NOW CAPTAIN GENERAL IN THE CANARIES.

4. LABOR REFORM. THE CORTES SUBCOMMITTEE CONSIDERING THE LABOR REFORM BILL HAS COMPLETED ITS WORK, AND INDICATIONS ARE THAT IT MADE FEW IF ANY IMPORTANT CHANGES. THE POLITICAL REFORM LAW'S OVERWHELMING REFERENDUM VICTORY CONSIDERABLY EASED THE PROSPECTS FOR PASSAGE OF A REFORM IN THIS SENSITIVE, COMPLEX AREA. CORTES DISCUSSION OF THE BILL WILL BEGIN JANUARY 12. STABLER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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